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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [UNMIK](#) [SR](#) [YI](#) [AU](#)  
SUBJECT: KOSOVO STATUS: PRISTINA AND BELGRADE REMAIN FAR  
APART ON DECENTRALIZATION AFTER MAY 4-5 TALKS.

REF: HOVENIER/EUR-SCE E-MAIL OF 5/5/06

THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE  
ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (SBU) THIS IS A REPORT FROM THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICER  
IN THE OFFICE OF THE UN ENVOY FOR KOSOVO STATUS  
SUMMARIZING THE MAY 4-5 TALKS ON DECENTRALIZATION/  
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES. A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY WAS  
PROVIDED REFTEL.

¶2. (SBU) PRISTINA AND BELGRADE OFFERED VASTLY DIFFERENT  
PROPOSALS ON NEW MUNICIPALITIES AT THE MAY 4-5  
NEGOTIATION SESSION. PRISTINA PUT ON THE TABLE A TOTAL  
OF FOUR MUNICIPALITIES, THREE NEW AND ONE MODIFICATION OF  
AN EXISTING MUNICIPALITY, WHILE BELGRADE URGED THE  
CREATION OF FOURTEEN NEW AND FOUR MODIFIED EXISTING  
MUNICIPALITIES. (NOTE: SEE ANNEX FOR THE LISTS OF  
PROPOSED MUNICIPALITIES. END NOTE.) THE PRISTINA  
AUTHORITIES AFFIRMED THAT ALL OF THEIR PROPOSED  
MUNICIPALITIES WOULD BE SUSTAINABLE WITH SUFFICIENT  
POPULATION (GENERALLY OVER 5000) AND RESOURCES/  
INFRASTRUCTURE. BELGRADE PROPOSED A NUMBER OF VERY SMALL  
MUNICIPALITIES AND CREATION OF A FEW MUNICIPALITIES IN  
CURRENTLY SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS TO ATTRACT RETURNS.

¶3. (SBU) IN DISCUSSIONS ON CRITERIA, UNOSEK IDENTIFIED A  
NUMBER OF COMMON POINTS: BOTH SIDES AFFIRMED THAT A  
MUNICIPALITY SHOULD HAVE A TARGET MINIMUM SIZE OF 5,000  
INHABITANTS (ALTHOUGH BELGRADE REPEATEDLY NOTED THE NEED  
FOR SOME "EXCEPTIONS" TO THIS RULE), AND A TARGET ETHNIC  
COMPOSITION RATIO OF 70 PERCENT ETHNIC SERB. THE LARGEST  
DIFFERENCE ON CRITERIA HAD TO DO WITH HOW TO ACCOMMODATE  
POTENTIAL RETURNEES. BELGRADE INSISTED ON FACTORING IN  
1999 POPULATION FIGURES, WHILE PRISTINA INSISTED ON  
DEVELOPING MUNICIPALITIES BASED ON THE CURRENT POPULATION  
ON THE GROUND.

¶4. (SBU) NEXT STEPS: UNOSEK WILL PRODUCE A MAP  
OUTLINING BOTH PROPOSALS AND THEN FURTHER CONSULT WITH  
THE PARTIES DURING DEPUTY SPECIAL ENVOY ROHAN'S VISIT TO  
BELGRADE AND PRISTINA MAY 16-19. UNOSEK ANTICIPATES IT  
CAN FIND COMMON GROUND ON GRACANICA, NOVO BRDO, AND  
RANILUG. FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IN MITROVICA HAS  
BEEN COMPLICATED BY BELGRADE'S RECENT CHANGE IN POSITION  
TO ACCEPT/SUPPORT THE IDEA OF LINKING NORTHERN MITROVICA  
TO THE ZVECAN MUNICIPALITY. UNOSEK INTENDS TO EXPLORE A  
FEW OTHER OF THE MORE SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPALITIES OUTLINED  
BY BELGRADE (PARTES, OBILIC), BUT BELIEVES THAT MANY OF  
BELGRADE'S PROPOSALS APPEAR UNLIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL  
MUNICIPALITIES.

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ANNEX

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¶5. (SBU) SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS - PRISTINA - THREE NEW MUNICIPALITIES AND ONE MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING MUNICIPALITY:

--GRACANICA (NEW),  
--RANILUG (NEW),  
--NORTHERN MITROVICA IN A ONE-CITY/TWO-MUNICIPALITY ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN MITROVICA (NEW), AND  
--ENLARGED NOVO BRDO (MODIFIED EXISTING MUNICIPALITY).

¶6. (SBU) SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS - BELGRADE - 14 NEW MUNICIPALITIES AND FOUR MODIFICATIONS OF EXISTING MUNICIPALITIES:

--GRACANICA (NEW),  
--LIPLJAN (NEW),  
--OBILIC (NEW),  
--GAZIMESTAN (NEW),  
--ENLARGED NOVO BRDO (MODIFIED EXISTING),  
--PARTES (NEW),  
--KUSCE-RANILUG (NEW),  
--KLOKOT (NEW),  
--GORA (NEW),  
--STRPCE (MODIFIED EXISTING),  
--VELIKA HOCA (NEW),  
--GORAZDEVAC (NEW),  
--BELO POLJE (NEW),  
--OSOJANE (NEW),  
--NORTHERN MITROVICA/ZVECAN (MODIFIED EXISTING),  
--RASADNIK (NEW),  
--LESAC (NEW), AND  
--ZUBIN POTOK (MODIFIED EXISTING).

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